

Fast Facts

Wisconsin Women's Council womenscouncil.wi.gov

Women in the Legislature 2015 Wisconsin

November 2014

$Legislature \tiny \tt (total)$



25% ... the share of women in the WI Legislature

in 2015 (33 of 132 seats)—an overall share that has been largely unchanged for the past quarter century (see chart below).

Senate



330/0 ... the share of women in the State Senate in

2015 (11 of 33 seats). Net gain of two seats from 2013. Newly elected for 2015: Bewley and Ringhand, both previously served in the Assembly.

Assembly



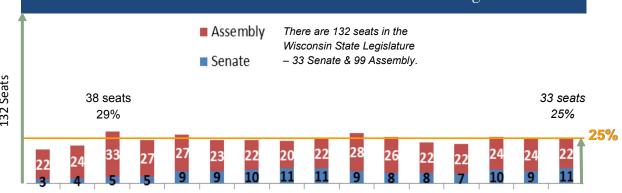
22%

... the share of women in the State Assembly

in 2015 (22 of 99 seats). *Net loss* of two seats from 2013.

Newly elected for 2015:
Brandtjen, Meyers, Stubeck,
Stuck and VanderMeer.

Three Decades of Women in the Wisconsin State Legislature



1985 1987 1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007 2009 2011 2013 2015

Benchmarks (1985 to 2015)

Largest number of women in the ...

- Legislature (total): 1989, 38 seats (29%)
- ◆ **Assembly**: 1989, 33 seats (33%)
- Senate: 1999, 2001 and 2015, 11 seats (33%)

Women's legislative leadership firsts:

- ◆ Senate President, 2015, Mary Lazich (R)
- Senate Majority Leader, 2003, Mary Panzer (R)
- ◆ Senate Minority Leader, 1985, Sen. Susan Engeleiter (R)
- Assembly Speaker (none)
- Assembly Majority Leader, 2014, Pat Strachota (R)
- ♦ Assembly Minority Leader, 1987, Betty Jo Nelsen (R)

Women in Legislative Leadership for 2015

Senate Majority Party (R)

President of the Senate Mary Lazich (WI's first female Senate President)

Caucus Chair Sheila Harsdorf

Senate Minority Party (D)

Minority Leader Jennifer Shilling

Caucus Chair Julia Lassa

Caucus Vice Chair Kathleen Vinehout

Assembly Majority Party (R)

Caucus Secretary
Jessie Rodriguez

Sergeant at Arms
Samantha Kerkman

Assembly Minority Party (D)

Assistant Minority Leader Katrina Shankland

Assistant Caucus Chair JoCasta Zamarripa

Caucus Secretary

Beth Meyers

Election results for the Nov. 2014 General Election were not yet certified by the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board at the time of this compilation. Historical figures: Wisconsin Women Legislators—A Historical List, Wisconsin Brief, January 2013, Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau.

Is there a **FAST FACT** or topic you would like to see profiled? Contact the Council at 608.266.2219 or christine.lidbury@wi.gov